Control on the excess liquidity in the Banking System

*110. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has hiked the SLR to 38 per cent w.e.f. 2nd January, 1988 to control the excess liquidity in the banking system;

(b) whether the RBI is aware that SLR was not a monetary control system but merely a means to transfer funds from the commercial sector to Government;

(c) whether the RBI could have hiked the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and not the SLR to control excess liquidity; and

(d) whether there is any truth in the assertion that an increase in the SLR will help the Centre to reduce its deficit in the current financial year by Rs. 600 crores and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) from 37.5 per cent to 38 per cent of net demand and time liabilities of banks with effect from the fortnight beginning January 2, 1988. According to RBI, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and SLR both are used as instruments of monetary control for moderating the excess bank liquidity. Other things remaining unchanged, an increase in SLR results in higher market borrowings without reliance on net RBI credit, which has a greater effect on total liquidity in the system.

Incidents of Poaching in the Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh

*111. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large-scale poaching is going on in the Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh and if so, what measures are being taken to stop it; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of tigers have recently been killed in the park and their skins exported; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal for Sub-division of Bigger States

*112. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any rpoposal under consideration by the Central Government for the sub-division of bigger States into smaller ones for better administration and for strengthening the unity of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Identification of Engineering Companies for Export Drive

*113. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently identified 88 engineering companies for export drive; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b) In response to an initiative taken by the Government, 88 engineering companies have submitted detailed company-wise export action plans. These action plans *inter alia* contain details regarding installed capacity, production, past exports, export projections for the period 1987-88 to 1990-91, market plans, product plans etc.

Appointment of Chairman of Tobacco Board

*114. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Chairman, Tobacco Board is lying vacant for quite some time;

(b) whether some Members of Parliament have written to Government for the filling up of the above post; and

(c) if so, by when the post is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a).

Signing of memorandum of understanding with the Swiss authorities

*115. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had initiated steps to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Swiss authorities for assistance in specific cases of Indians having accounts in Swiss banks with funds obtained illegally;

(b) whether it is a fact that a six member team of various Ministries had visited Switzerland in this regard and submited its report in October last; and

(c) if so, what sort of agreement/understanding is going to be signed between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) A team comprising representatives of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Central Bureau of Investigation and the Reserve Bank of India visited Berne (Switzerland) in September, 1987, to explore the possibilities of entering into an arrangement for mutual assistance in criminal matters between the Governments of India and Switzerland. Based on the recommendations of the team, Government is exploring the feasibility of exchange of letters between the two Governments for mutual assistance in criminal matters.

Dowry deaths

*116. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been an increase in the